



The exemplification of the Queenes Maiesties Letters, Pattents, directed, for the Towne of
Portsmouth, to her Maiesties loving Subiects within this Realme.

Elizabeth, by the grace of God, Queene of England, Fraunce and Irelande, defender of the
Faith. &c. To all and singular, Archbishops, Bishops, Archdeacons, Deanes, and their Offi-
cials, Parsons, Vicars, Curats, and to all other spiritual persons, what so euer they be. And al-
so to all Iustices of Peace, Mayors, Shrieves, Bayliffes, Constables, Churchwardens, head-
boroughes, and to al other, our Officers, Ministers, and faithful Subiects, to whom these pre-
sents shall come, greeting. Whereas we are credibly certified by the right reuerende Father

In God Robert, Bishop of Winchester, Sir Henry Radcliffe Knight Sir Edward Hozley Knight, Sir Richard
Norton Knight, & Thomas Uedale, Esquire, Justice of Peace, in our County of Southe, that diuers the poore
Merchaunts and Townesmen, of our Towne of Portsmouth in our saide County of South, through misad-
venture of fire that happened to our Storehouses there in the moneth of August, in the eighteenth yeere of our
Reigne, haue sustained great losse and damage, by reason of the sayd fire, which not onely bzent and consumed
all their Storehouses there, with sundry kindes of Merchandize in the same, but also other dwelling houses of
certaine our poore Subiects therabouts, with all or the most parte of their goods and houlsholde stufte therein,
amounting to the value of two Thousand, two hundred nine pounds and foure shillings, to the extreme impo-
uerishing and utter vndoing of them, their poore Wiues and Children for euer: vnesse they be charitably hol-
pen and releued with the charity and deuotion of our louing Subiectes, in consideration whereof, and at the
humble sute of the sayde Merchaunts and Townesmen. Know ye therefore, that we haue licenced, and by these
presentes do licence Richard Ieruis, and Thomas Poyner, two of the sayd Merchaunts of our sayde Towne
of Portsmouth and either of them, to nntlye or seuerally their sufficient deputie or deputies, bearers hereof, to
aske, gather, receiue and take, the charity and deuotion of our louing Subiectes whatsoeuer, English borne or
Strangers, in all places within this our Realme of England, as well within liberties as without, as well for the
reliefe of the said Richard and Thomas, and the rest of the sayd poore Merchaunts, and Townesmen, as also
towards the buylding and new making of the said Storehouses, that were the Merchaunts. Wherefore we will
and commaund you, and euery of you, that at such time or times as the said Richard and Thomas, or either
of them, their sufficient Deputy or Deputies, bearers hereof, shall come and repayre, to any your Churches, or o-
ther places, to aske and gather, the charity and deuotion of our louing Subiects (as is aforesayd) quietly to per-
mitte and suffer them so to do, without any maner your lets, interruption or contradiction. And you the sayde

Constables and Churchwardens, to declare the tenour of our Letters Pattentes vnto our sayde Sub-
iects in this beyane, and for the speedye collection of the charity
as is aforesayd. We will and commaund all and singular, you the aforesaid Constables and
Churchwardens of euery Parish Church, that ye (imediately vpon the sight hereof, or a true copy hereof,) do col-
lect and gather of our louing Subiects their charitable gifts and contribucions. And to set downe in writing as-
well the names of euery Parishioner in euery Parish, and the sume and summes of money by them giuen in this
behalf: which summes of Money so gathered together, with the names of the giuers thereof, we wil shalbe de-
liuered to the Bishop of theyr Dioces for the time, being at his next visitation to be holden in the same Dioces, or
vnto his Commissary or Deputie in that behalfe, for and to the vse of the saide Thomas and Richard, and the
rest of our saide Merchaunts. In witnes whereof we haue caused these our Letters to be made Pattents, for
the space of one whole yeare next after the date hereof to endure. Witnes our selfe at Westminster the fyft daye
of Maye in the two and twenty yeare of our Reigne. 1580. God saue the Queene.

The Copie of the Counsels letters, directed to the Bishop of this diocesse, for the speedy collection and gathering to be made within your Diocesse, for the
Towne of Portsmouth: desiring that the beneuolence may be enlarged for the poore Towne, in consideration that this is the last
Collection that shall come vnto you for the sayde Towne.

After our right hartly commendations. vnto your Lordship. Whereas the last yeare, vpon consideration of the decay and impouerishment of the inhabitants of
the towne of Portsmouth growen as well by accident of fire in the yeare. 1576. within the saide Towne, by the which was consumed in goods & Merchandize of
sundry kinds appertaining vnto the said inhabitants, to the value of 3000. pounds or there about, as also by reaso of other great losses of late yeares by the sus-
tayned at the Seas: it pleased the Queenes Maiestie to graunt vnto them her letters Pattents, vnder the great Seale of England, whereby they were licensed
to gather and receaue towards the reliefe. the deuotion of well disposed people, thorough out the Realme, which letters Pattents were then accompanied with our letters,
vnto your Lordship, for the better furthering of the poore men, and ordering of such summes of money as should be gathered to their vse. Wherein we considered with the
povertie of the men, the importance of the Towne being a Porte & a Forresse vpon that coaste of the Realme seruing to great purpose, and therefore by all good meanes
to be cherished & relieved. And forasmuch as her Maiestie & we are giuen to vnderstand by the said letters Pattents (notwithstanding our particuler directio vnto you) haue
not taken that good effect that was expected because (the time limited for that gathering being now expired) as we are enformed there is not almost any thing deliuered in,
to the benefit of the sayde poore inhabitants: Her highnesse contynning neuerthelesse her gracious disposition towards the helping and relieuing of them, hath estones re-
nued vnto them the said letters Pattents for one yeare moze, and giuen order that your Lordship according to our first letters (for the auoiding of such charges as may grow
vnto the by appointing speciall persons to repayre from place to place, for the gathering of the sayd deuotion whereby the moste part thereof wilbe consumed) do forthwith
vpon the receipt hereof, and of the letters Pattents or a true copy of them, give direction vnto your Apparitor, or some other of your Lordships Officers, to will and com-
maund the Curat and Church wardens of euery parish Church within your Diocesse at such times as are accustomed, & with as conuenient diligence as may be, to gather
the deuotion of the Parishioners, for the time to come, according to the contents of the sayd letters Pattents: and the money by them so gathered to be deliuered vnto your
Lordship, or to such others as you shall appoint, and by you or them to be conuayed vnto London, & there payd at the dwelling house of our louing friend Thomas Pulliston
one of the Aldermen of that Cittie vnto Richard Ieruis and Thomas Poyner, named in the letters patents, or to either of them, receauing for the portage thereof iiii. pence
in euery pounce. And as it is not to be doubted but that by your Lordships good care therein vled, some thing hath bene already by vertue of the first letters collected within
your sayd Diocesse, which by the default of suche persons to whom the trust thereof hath bene committ. haue not bene so faithfully deliuered ouer and payde to the
vse of the poore men as appertayned. So to the end that neither your Lordship be therein abused, nor the poore men defrauded of that deuotion, we pray your Lordship
vpon the receipt hereof to examine what summes haue bene gathered, and accordingly to cause deliuey to be made forthwith, of the sum, at the place, & to the persons a-
boue named, or to eyther of them. And your Lordship to haue a speciall care hereafter that the handeling of such sums of money as shalbe vpon these second letters to this
purpose gathered, and collected, may be committed to persons of trust and discretion, that the good deuotion of her Maiesties louing Subiects giuen to the reliefe of the towne
be not fraudulently conuerted to priuate vles of them that shall haue the gathering and receauing thereof vnder your Lordship, and thereby the intencion of contributois a-
bused: And so referring the due care and ordering hereof vnto your Lordship, that some better effect may follow, to the commoditie of the poore inhabitants, then hath be-
thereto insued: we bid you right hartely farewell. From Nonesuch the xviij. of Iune, 1580.

Your Lordships very louing friends,



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